

Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-10 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 NIC-01

DRC-01 /172 W

----- 084971

R 090850Z NOV 73

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8664

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USINT CAIRO

USLO PEKING

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 11270

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CH, EG, US

SUBJ: PEKING ON EGYPT-U.S. RELATIONS

SUMMARY: PEKING'S REPORT OF THE RESUMPTION OF U.S. -EGYPTIAN DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS APPEARS TO REFLECT A SUBTLE SHIFT AWAY FROM RECENT CATEGORICAL CONDEMNATIONS OF EFFORTS FOR A MID-EAST SETTLEMENT. END SUMMARY.

1. IN THE FIRST POSITIVE REFERENCE TO THE RECENT POLITICAL SITUATION IN THE MID-EAST OR INDICATION TO CHINESE READERS THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IS THERE PRIOR TO HIS VISIT TO PEKING, NCNA (NOV 8) REPORTED THE U.S.-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT TO RESUME DIPLOMATIC TIES FOLLOWING A MEETING BETWEEN THE SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT SADAT IN CAIRO. SINCE THE CEASE-FIRE, EGYPT'S VIEWS ON NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY IGNORED IN PEKING MEDIA. IN THE PAST FEW DAYS THE EARLIER FREQUENT CONDEMNATION OF AN "IMPOSED SETTLEMENT" IN THE MID-EAST HAS BEEN NOTABLY ABSENT FROM THE PRC PRESS AND THERE HAS BEEN NO CRITICISM

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OF CURRENT U.S. DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS. IN A BANQUET SPEECH FOR SIERRA

LEONE PRESIDENT STEVENS ON NOV 7 CHOU PRAISED AFRICAN COUNTRIES
FOR SUPPORTING THE ARAB STRUGGLE BUT MADE NO COMMENT ON THE PRESENT
SITUATION.

2. TAKEN TOGETHER, THESE DEVELOPMENTS SUGGEST THAT THE PRC IS
MOVING BACK TO A MORE FLEXIBLE POSITION ON A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT
IN THE MID-EAST.
OSBORN

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